



## Spotlight on Lexington . . .

*Lexington County and its county seat, the town of Lexington, were named for the battle of Lexington, Massachusetts, the first battle of the American Revolution. This part of the state was first named Saxe Gotha Township about 1733. Lexington was eventually made a separate district in 1804. European settlement of this area began around 1718, when the British established a trading post on the Congaree River, which eventually became the town of Granby. Beginning in the 1730s many German, Swiss, and Scotch-Irish immigrants moved into the area and established small farms. The county seat was moved to the town of Lexington in 1818. Several Revolutionary War skirmishes took place in this area, and General Sherman's troops shelled the city of Columbia from the Lexington side of the Congaree during the Civil War. In 1930 Lake Murray was created on the Saluda River in Lexington County, covering many of the old farms and creating new recreational opportunities for the county. Revolutionary War heroine Emily Geiger was a resident of Lexington County, and television personality Leeza Gibbons grew up here.*

### Lexington Workforce Center

714 South Lake Drive, Ste 140, P O Box 1769  
Lexington, SC 29071  
(803 359-6131 / FAX: (803) 356-5839

### Location & Climate

- Located in the central area of the state
- Surrounded by Aiken, Saluda, Newberry, Richland, Calhoun, and Orangeburg counties
- This region has an average temperature of 66.5 degrees with an annual average rainfall of 48.3 inches.

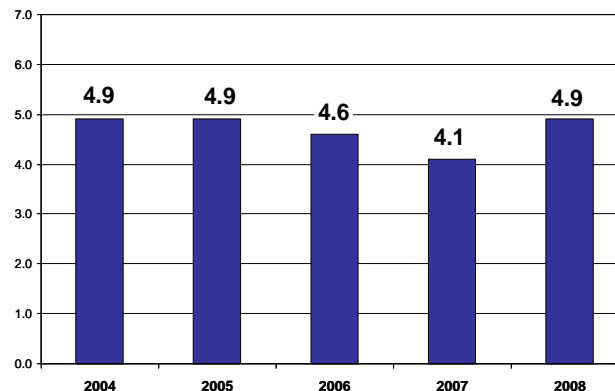
### Population

- Was 242,800 in 2007
- Estimated growth to 274,800 by 2015
- 2007 data was comprised of 82.5% White, 14.8% African-American, and 2.7% Other
- The Hispanic-Latino population has increased from 4,146 in 2000 to 8,600 in 2007, a 107.4% change.

### Labor Force

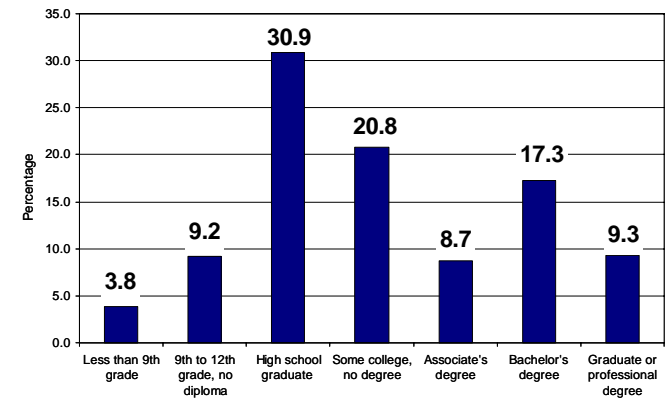
- Increased from 131,500 in 2007 to 132,930 in 2008
- Employment rose from 126,170 in 2007 to 126,390 in 2008.
- Unemployment rate climbed from 4.1% in 2007 to 4.9% in 2008.

Unemployment Rates for Lexington County  
2004 - 2008



### Educational Attainment

Lexington County 2007



### Per Capita Income

- County per capita income was \$34,740 for 2007.
- This was 112% of the state's per capita income of \$31,100.
- This was 90% of the national per capita income of \$38,620.

### Unemployment Insurance Benefits

The Lexington Workforce Center paid \$14,098,691 in regular unemployment insurance benefits during 2008.



### SC Employment Security Commission Labor Market Information

P O Box 995  
Columbia, SC 29202  
(803) 737-2660 / FAX: (803) 737-2838  
(800) 205-9290 (outside the Columbia area)

<http://www.sces.org/lmi>